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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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#### 2017 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 2

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 25-July 1). The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (July 2-July 8). Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

For 2017, the *F/V St. Janet* is conducting the Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point test fishery.

**Point Gardner:** The second test fishery was conducted at Point Gardner on Monday, July 3, 2017. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was below average but greatly improved from the previous week. Chum salmon harvest improved from the previous week and was above average. Sockeye and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

**Kingsmill:** The first test fishery was conducted at Kingsmill Point on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. Five of the seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well above average. Sockeye and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

**Run Strength:** Pink salmon passing Point Gardner appear to be weaker than average as indicated by lower than average harvest; however, pink salmon harvest was well above average for Kingsmill Point. No conclusions for pink salmon can be made at this time due to the mixed harvest data from the two test fisheries. Chum salmon passing through the Kingsmill Point test fishery were well above average for the first test fishery. Well above average catch rates for chum salmon from the Kingsmill Point test fishery and above average chum catch rates from the Point Gardner test fishery for stat week 27 may indicate a robust return; however, no definite conclusions can be drawn at this time.

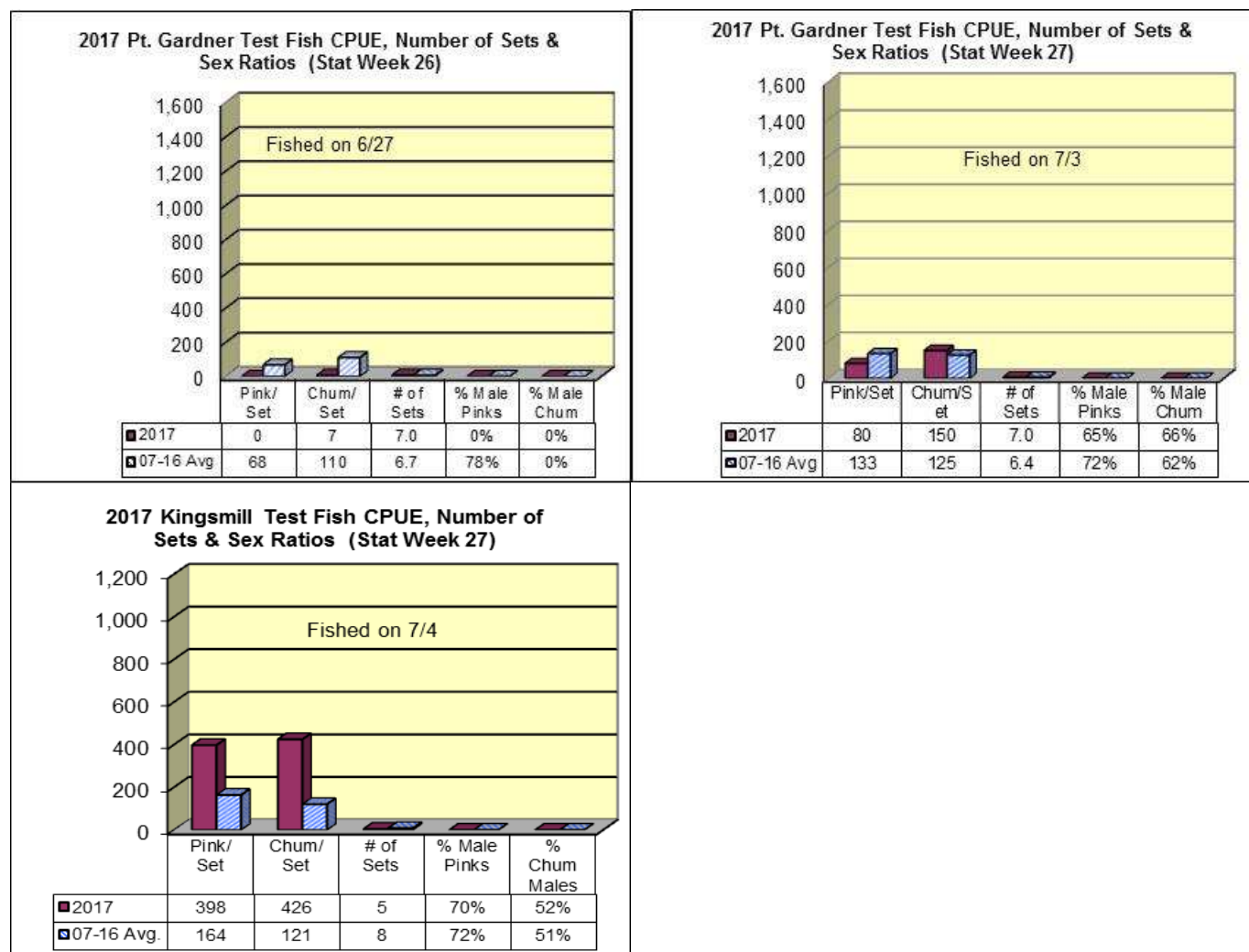
**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week to the historical average, provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. Point Gardner Gardner/Kingsmill Update

test fishing results indicated that pink salmon sex ratios were below average, which could indicate earlier run timing; whereas, chum salmon sex ratios were above average, which could indicate slightly later than average timing passing through the area. Kingsmill Point test fishing had near average sex ratios for both pink and chum salmon indicating normal run timing for both species.

#### Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pinks: 4.3 pounds; chums: 8.7 pounds;
- Kingsmill: pinks: 3.8 pounds; chums: 9.3 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Wednesday, July 12.



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